

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 T-03

OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-12 RSR-01 /139 W
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P R 161647 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3923

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, PGOV, PARM, PFOR, ETRD (RUSH, KENNETH)

SUBJECT: REACTION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH' S WEST
GERMAN TV INTERVIEW

1. FROM TALKS WITH NUMEROUS CONTACTS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH' S MARCH 13 INTERVIEW ON WEST GERMAN TV ATTRACTED WIDE AND FAVORABLE ATTENTION IN OFFICIAL GERMAN CIRCLES. THE NEWS MEDIA ALSO CARRIED ARTICLES ON THE INTERVIEW. WHILE THE PRESS COVERAGE WAS LIMITED IN LENGTH (GERMAN PRESS COMMENTATORS VERY RARELY COMMENT IN PRINT ON TV INTERVIEWS), ARTICLES APPEARED IN DIE WELT, STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN, BERLIN TAGESSPIEGEL AND ABEND, BASED LARGELY ON MAJOR WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. GIVEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY' S ROLE IN THE FOUR- POWER BERLIN NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS PERHAPS NATURAL THAT THE PRESS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON HIS POSITIVE EVALUATION OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT.

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2. AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS WERE DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY AT A SENIOR- LEVEL STAFF MEETING. THE GROUP NOTED THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN PARTICULAR:

A. THE STRESS ON THE NEED FOR A CONTINUED US PRESENCE IN EUROPE;

B. THE LACK OF REFERENCE TO ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN US- WEST EUROPEAN TRADE PROBLEMS AND US TROOP LEVELS; AND

C. THE DISTINCTION DRAWN BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY BETWEEN OFFSET AND MULTILATERAL BURDEN- SHARING.

OUR SOURCES WERE UNIFORMLY PRAISING IN THEIR COMMENTS ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PERFORMANCE.

3. FONOFF SOURCES WERE SIMILARLY POSITIVE IN THEIR STATEMENTS ON THE INTERVIEW. THEY NOTED THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS WERE BOTH FRANK YET EXTREMELY DIPLOMATIC AND REFLECTED A PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBSTANCE MATTER. ONE OFFICIAL (BLECH) TOLD US THAT HE FOUND DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S STATEMENTS ON BERLIN MOST INFORMATIVE AND HE (BLECH) PERSONALLY HOPED THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON THE FUTURE OF BERLIN WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BY THE SENIOR CHANCELRY AND FONOFF OFFICIALS. BLECH SAID HE PLANNED TO BRING THE REMARKS TO THOSE OFFICIALS' ATTENTION. FONOFF'S US DESK OFFICER INFORMED US THAT THE OPINION OF THE MINISTRY WAS MOST FAVORABLE TO THE INTERVIEW AND ESPECIALLY TO THE CARE WITH WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AVOIDED BEING ENTRAPPED BY THE LOADED QUESTIONS, E. G. ON THE US VIEW OF THE JUSOS.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON THE COMMENTS FROM OUR CONTACTS IN THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES, WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE POSITIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE INTERVIEW WAS RECEIVED. IN OUR VIEW, THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF EXPOSURE TO HIGH- LEVEL US POLICY- ORIENTED THINKING WHICH NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE GERMAN PUBLIC'S ATTENTION.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN03929
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaicbn.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971217
Subject: REACTION TO DEPUTY
TAGS: ETRD, PARM, PFOR, PGOV, GW, (RUSH, KENNETH)
To: BERLIN
EUR
LONDON
MOSCOW
NATO BRUSSELS
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

USIA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005